## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 08824 070649Z ACTION EB-08

P R 070619Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2053
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS
USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 8824

GENEVA FOR PHELAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EPAP, IN, US

SUBJECT: BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT: GROUP II QUOTA

**REF: STATE 140147** 

1. AT MINISTRY OF COMMERCE REQUEST, ON JUNE 6 MOC SECRETARY THAPAR DISCUSSED WITH CHARGE PROBLEMS ARISING OUT OF BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT. THAPAR BRIEFLY OUTLINED THE REASONS WHY GROUP II ADJUSTED LIMIT HAD BEEN ALMOST EXHAUSTED (REFTEL). HE SAID THAT, ACCORDING TO GOI DATA, APPROXIMATELY 24 MILLION SYE OF GARMENTS HAD BEEN SHIPPED UNDER GROUP II AS OF MAY 15, 1978, BUT THAT OF THIS AMOUNT ABOUT 12 MILLION SYE WERE HANDLOOM APPAREL PRODUCTS WHICH MISTAKENLY HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN THE ELEPHANT CERTIFICATION STAMP. INSTEAD, A ROUND STAMP HAD BEEN PUT ON CUSTOM INVOICE DOCUMENTS, SO THAT THESE GOODS WERE WRONGLY DEBITED TO GROUP II.

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2. THAPAR SAID THAT THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE HAD BEEN GATHERING DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE IN NEW DELHI AND BOMBAY TO SHOW THAT HANDLOOM GOODS HAD BEEN MISTAKENLY STAMPED. THE GOI HAD COLLECTED ENOUGH SPECIAL CUSTOMS INVOICES TO SHOW THAT 7-8 MILLION SYE OF HANDLOOM GARMENTS HAD BEEN MISTAKENLY GIVEN THE ROUND STAMP. HE NOTED THAT AN OFFICER OF TEXPROCIL (TEXTILE EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL) CARRYING THESE SPECIAL CUSTOMS IN-

VOICES IS LEAVING NEW DELHI ON JUNE 7 AND WOULD BE ARRIVING IN WASHINGTON ON JUNE 8. THE INDIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON COULD THEN TAKEN UP THIS MATTER WITH USG AUTHORITIES. THE GOI HOPES TO SEND ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION WITHIN A MONTH OR SO.

- 3. THAPAR URGED THAT THE FLOW OF INDIAN APPAREL PRODUCTS TO THE U.S. CONTINUE. HE HOPED THAT A RECONCILATION OF THE MATTER COULD BE ACHIEVED SOON. PENDING A FINAL RECONCILIATION, THAPAR ASKED THE USG TO RELEASE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON AN AD HOC BASIS AT LEAST 6 MILLION SYE IN GROUP II TO KEEP THE TRADE FLOW CONTINUING.
- 4. THAPAR HANDED CHARGE A NOTE VERBAL WHICH ENLARGED ON HIS ORAL REMARKS. THIS NOTE VERBAL IS BEING POUCHED DIRECTLY TO MIKE SMITH ON JUNE 7. BLOOD

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## Message Attributes

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